



Memorandum

To: Rick Sun, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works

From: Wendy Katagi, CDM Smith
Benjamin Hart, SWCA Environmental Consultants

Date: August 26, 2015

Subject: Fish Relocation Weekly Activity Summary for the Oxford Retention Basin
Multiuse Enhancement Project – Week of August 23, 2015

Introduction

This memorandum summarizes the fish relocation activities conducted by CDM Smith and SWCA Environmental Consultants (SWCA) biologists during the week beginning August 23, 2015 at the Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement Project. Information regarding the regulatory drivers and methodology of fish relocation activities can be found in the Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement Project Fish Relocation Plan, dated July 7, 2015.

Summary of Fish Relocation Activities

Fish relocation activities were conducted in Oxford Basin by Wendy Katagi, Eric Smith, Tiffany Lin, Juan Ramirez, Elise Takebayashi, and Katherine Dowdell of CDM Smith, and SWCA Biologists Benjamin Hart and John Ivanov beginning at 7:00 am and ending at approximately 4:00 p.m. on August 24, 25, and 26, 2015. Draining of Oxford Basin was under way during this week, allowing for successful access to, and relocation of, fish present in the Basin.

Trapping methods included the use of inflatable rafts and float tubes to deploy seine nets, and capture of fish utilizing seine and dip nets. Captured fish were transferred into 5-gallon buckets and 18-gallon tubs, and were moved by hand and by truck to two relocation points; one at the Killer Shrimp Restaurant dock in Basin E of the Marina del Rey Harbor, and one at Mother's Beach in Basin D of the Marina del Rey Harbor. Fish were relocated within a maximum of approximately 15 minutes of being captured. The survival rate of relocated fish was estimated to be approximately 85-95 percent based on visual observation of released individuals, with the highest rate of mortality in mosquito fish (*Gambusia affinis*). It should be noted that no specific study of survival was conducted after release of individuals. CDFW did not express concern over mortality of mosquito fish or other species.

Fish species that were captured and relocated from Oxford Basin include: mosquito fish (approximately 70,000 individuals); round stingray (*Urolophus halleri*; approximately 25); California halibut (*Paralichthys californicus*; one); topsmelt (*Atherinops affinis*; approximately 75);

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longjaw mudsucker (*Gillichthys mirabilis*; approximately 15); goby (various species; approximately 250); one California sea hare (*Aplysia californica*); and several small crabs (species unidentified). In summary, the fish relocation was successfully completed in compliance with the CDFW Fish Relocation Plan.



Photo 1. Draining under way in Oxford Basin.



Photo 2. Seine net deployment from inflatable raft.



Photo 3. Dip netting fish from seine into buckets and tubs for relocation.



Photo 4. Captured mosquito fish, gobies, and topsmelt ready for relocation to Basin E of Marina del Rey Harbor.



Photo 5. Thousands of mosquito fish were captured as part of the effort.



Photo 6. Oxford Basin mostly drained.